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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/12/2016  
TAGS: PHUM PREL NO  
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED - HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

REF: A. STATE 94561

1B. OSLO 705

Classified By: Pol/Econ Counselor Mike Hammer, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

(C) On June 12 we delivered reftel points to Anne Merchant and Lars Sigurd Valvatne, Senior Advisers in the MFA's Section for Human Rights and Democracy. Stating that the points were "no surprise," Merchant noted that Norway was in favor of "some kind of action" during the Council's first session with respect to the Declaration on Rights and Indigenous Peoples. Valvatne reiterated many of the Norwegian justifications supporting the Declaration (as described in reftel b), including that the Norwegians "could live with" the Declaration, although it was admittedly "imperfect." In addition, he stated that if the Declaration was not brought up in the first Council session, the issue would "lose momentum." According to Valvatne, the Declaration "was the best we could get." He pointed out that Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland (the only Nordic country on the Council) support the Declaration's transmission from the Council to the General Assembly.

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